

Calgary, the prosperous capital of Alberta, has come to the conclusion that its population of 4,000 peace-loving people warrant the establishment of a police force. Accordingly a chief and a sub were appointed. They paced the streets diligently, but finding official work scarce, they turned detectives, and claim to have unearthed crimes enough for a metropolis. The people are not happy over the present state of affairs. On the whole, they regret the civic pride which led them to call for a uniformed protection, and would fain dismiss the officers whose presence seems to have awakened the slumbering villainy of the town.

There have been so many disastrous accidents attendant upon the use of electricity as a motor power for street cars that great efforts have been put forth to find a practical substitute. There is at present a short railway between Manchester and Bolton, on which a new motor has been used with marked success. The euphonious name of this power is the Anhydrous Ammonia. In other words the chemical affinity between water and ammonia is the basis of the new power. Cars by this method can be run at an expense of three cents an hour, and the shrewd inventors hope that this cheap and harmless agent will speedily displace electricity as a locomotive power for street cars.

We regret exceedingly to observe that so many of our Nova Scotian lads are already acquiring the tobacco habit. We need in Canada a sturdy generation of men to continue the development of the country which their fathers have begun. The young smoker is not a promising citizen. Brain and body are alike enfeebled by the use of tobacco in any form. Under-sized and nervous youths can too often be seen—the result in great part of the tobacco-habit. On the ground of personal self-respect, boys, give up tobacco. Let your manhood reach its highest development, both mentally and physically, before meddling with the noxious weed.

Now that the planet Mars is in such close proximity to the earth, to the great excitement of the astronomical world, it is pleasing to note that "a Fellow of the Theosophical Society" have received definite information on the subject from the spirit of the late Madame Blavatsky. According to the late leader of the Theosophical sect, Mars is not now inhabited, in fact it has been void of population for some millions of years. The "Egos," who once were domiciled on the red planet, are now sojourning in one of its invisible moons. It is not probable, however, that this startling statement will discourage our astronomers from making further "unhappy and indefinite deductions from partial facts."

The Government of Chili has agreed to submit certain claims made by the Government of the United States to the decision of arbitrators. One of the most peculiar of these is a claim in which a Frenchman, surnamed Cochet, a naturalized citizen of the United States and a resident in Chili, is interested. The claimant himself has been dead for many years, and now his illegitimate son is urging for a settlement. Cochet claimed that he was the discoverer of the properties of guano as a fertilizing agent, and that half the profit of the whole guano trade of Chili had been promised him for his service to the country. The son, who is also the sole heir, calculates the damages at the substantial sum of \$500,000,000.

We are sorry to note the disgrace which J. A. Chrysler, school-teacher of Tuterville, near Simcoe, has endeavored to bring upon his profession. Happily he has failed in this, and his wrong-doing will fall only upon his own shoulders. His scheme for raising money was to advertise in the *Globe*, of Toronto, for applications for a vacant tutorship, which of course never existed. His dupes were to enclose a deposit of \$10.00 as an evidence of good faith. Not a few unwary ones nibbled at the bait, the ten dollar bills were coming in very usefully, when an enlightened dupe exposed the fraud. Chrysler's sentence has been deferred, but we trust that when given it will be a salutary one. His kind of shrewdness is not needed in Canada.

The people of the United States do not seem content with the Chinese immigration laws, for they are inflicting absurd restrictions on the 140,000 Chinese already resident in the country. The last Congress decreed that every Chinaman in the country should sit for his photograph, at his own expense, and that the picture should be retained by the Government. This new picture gallery will doubtless be as amusing as the idea is absurd. The similarity of the Chinese countenances will doubtless be a trifle monotonous, but still the American Government can claim to be the possessor of "the greatest show on earth." The *New York Sun* gravely suggests that a national museum should be built in which the Chinese photographs might be displayed to popular advantage.

An interesting lawsuit has arisen in London over the extra charges which are the bane of the British theatres. It appears that a Mr. Jones became lessee of the Avenue Theatre in last September, and that before this date a Mr. Payne had contracted with the proprietors to sell refreshments and programmes. The programmes were sold at sixpence each, a charge which seemed exorbitant to Mr. Jones. In order to put down their sale he circulated free programmes and displayed large printed copies upon the stage. In the lawsuit which followed Mr. Jones was worsted for having interfered in an illegal manner with the rights of the sub-contractor, but his championship of the free programme policy, even at his personal loss, has done much to increase the unpopularity of programme vendors.

The proceedings of the ghost-catching weather bureau of the Society for Psychological Research are not without interest to the general public. Of course few definite results have been attained, but many interesting facts are given in connection with experimental psychology. About 700 cases of veridical apparition—that is an apparition which coincides in circumstance and time with a calamity to a friend or a relative—have been collected. The Society has also succeeded in unmasking a good many humbugs, in putting down the mechanical variety of spiritual seances, and in testing the value of hypnotism as an aesthetic agent. So long as the Society shall continue to clear away superstitions it will be of great use to its generation.

Prince Bismarck is still receiving evidences of the sympathy and support of his countrymen. At Jena he was enthusiastically received—his harangues were listened to almost as if an oracle were speaking. Bismarck is raising the cry of "No Popery." He avers that the Roman Catholic Party is fast becoming an important factor in the Government—he pledges himself to do his utmost to secure a Protestant Empire. He announces himself as the foe of absolutism. The older men shake their heads over this sudden conversion to both Liberal and ill-Liberalism. They remember too well the Prince Bismarck who defied Parliaments, whose administration rested solely on the absolutism which he now denounces.

Many American tourists are coming eagerly to our city, and are going away with a sense of disillusionment about the charms of Provincial life. A great deal of this dissatisfaction is due to lack of proper hotel accommodation. Scores of tired travellers are turned away from our leading hotels after the arrival of each American boat. They are helplessly stranded in a strange city, anxious for a comfortable shelter, and quite willing to pay for it. In the absence of a proper summer hotel cannot some amicable arrangement be made between the hotels and the numerous private boarding houses in the city. By this means the travelling public would be accommodated, the private boarding houses benefitted, and a more pleasing impression given to these strangers who have left their crowded cities to seek diversion in the little city by the sea.

The one hundredth anniversary of the poet Shelley's death, which has just been commemorated in many parts of the world, has called forth much hitherto unpublished anecdote, fact, and doubtless fiction, about the clever youth. Seldom has the gift of song had such a perfect utterance, seldom has nature had a truer interpreter. Shelley caught and held the music of the sky-lark's song in all the beauty of its ethereal, cloudy height—and it is a hundred years since he passed from this world. Can we not then forget his human frailty and remember only the divine spark within the man. What was evil in his life is dead to-day. What was almost angelic is immortal. Another poet has told us of the painter who taught a monarch a lesson of kindly judgment when he bade him—

"By scanning each living temple
For the place where the veil is thin,
Discover in beautiful glimpses
The form of the God within."

Two years ago, when the Afro-American League was established, it was hoped that its influence would do much to put down the many outrages which were being perpetrated upon the American negro. Since then the administration of mob-law to the negro has grown much more frequent—the record of lynchings alone for the past year is a disgraceful one. The league having failed in its first object is now urged to more stirring measures. It is suggested that every negro in the United States shall be thoroughly armed with powder, shot and rifle, that he may be able to resent the insults heaped upon himself or his family. While we sympathize greatly with the Afro-Americans in their sufferings through the maladministration of law in the Republic, yet we cannot but condemn those who are fanning this flame of discontent. They should consider the impulsiveness of the colored people, which would but too soon carry them beyond the bounds of moderation. If there is any sense of justice in the law courts of the United States the grievance of the negro will not be lightly set aside.

We note with great interest that the public is again becoming interested in the Peeper case. Peeper has been confined in Dorchester for over three years for a crime which to our mind was never clearly proven against him. Many who have closely studied the case, and who know the prisoner well, are morally certain of his innocence. The petition which is to be circulated in our city should receive careful attention. It gives many reasons for the release of Peeper, the chief argument being that Jane Doyle, the wife of the murdered man, has on several occasions admitted that Peeper was innocent, and that she herself had shot her husband by accident. While it is greatly to be regretted that an innocent man should have undergone Peeper's experiences—in being wrongfully charged with a crime—in being sentenced to death—then at the earnest petition of the public having his sentence commuted to dreary imprisonment for life, yet a deeper disgrace will attach itself to our law courts and our citizens in private life, if with their present knowledge of Mrs. Doyle's admissions they fail to make an effort to secure freedom at least for this victim of a mis-carriage of justice.

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